

1 **CLAIMS**

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3 What is claimed is:

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5 1. A method comprising:

6 displaying a first graphical user interface (GUI) on a display screen, the
7 first GUI being associated with a program operatively configured on a first
8 computing device; and

9 displaying a second GUI on said display screen over said first GUI, the
10 second GUI being associated with a program operatively configured on a second
11 computing device that is operatively connected to said first computing device, and
12 wherein said second GUI is displayed on substantially the full screen of said
13 display screen and includes at least one identifier that identifies that said second
14 GUI is not associated with said first computing device.

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16 2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein at least one of said first
17 and said second GUIs is a desktop GUI associated with an operating system.

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19 3. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein at least one of said first
20 and said second GUIs is an application GUI associated with an application
21 program.
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1 4. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said second GUI is
2 displayed in full screen mode on said display screen, such that none of said first
3 GUI is visible to said user.

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5 5. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one identifier
6 is selectively displayed for a defined period of time and then no longer displayed
7 until reactivated.

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9 6. The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein said at least one identifier
10 is reactivated after a defined period of time expires since said at least one identifier
11 was last displayed.

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13 7. The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein said at least one identifier
14 is reactivated after the user causes a pointing device controlled cursor to enter into
15 a defined region of said second GUI.

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17 8. The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein said at least one identifier
18 is reactivated after the user causes a pointing device controlled cursor to enter into
19 a defined region of said second GUI and said cursor remains in said region for a
20 definable period of time.

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22 9. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one identifier
23 is selectively displayed based on at least one user keyboard input.

1 **10.** The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one
2 identifier is selectively displayed by said program operatively configured on said
3 second computing device.

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5 **11.** The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one
6 identifier includes information identifying said second computing device.

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8 **12.** The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one
9 identifier includes at least one user selectable feature that is operatively configured
10 to provide at least one user input to said second computing device.

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12 **13.** A method comprising:
13 generating graphical user interface (GUI) data suitable for being displayed
14 on a display screen, the GUI data being associated with a program operatively
15 configured on a computing device that is configurable to be operatively coupled to
16 another computing device,

17 wherein said another computing device is connected to said display screen
18 and if displayed on said display screen said GUI data is configured to use
19 substantially the full screen of said display screen, and

20 wherein said GUI data includes data for displaying at least one identifier
21 that identifies that said GUI data is associated with said computing device.

1 **14.** The method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said GUI data includes
2 desktop GUI data associated with an operating system running on said computing
3 device.

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5 **15.** The method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said GUI data includes
6 application GUI data associated with an application program running on said
7 computing device.

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9 **16.** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
10 instructions for performing acts comprising:

11 displaying a first graphical user interface (GUI) on a display screen, the
12 first GUI being associated with a program operatively configured on a first
13 computing device; and

14 displaying a second GUI on said display screen over said first GUI, the
15 second GUI being associated with a program operatively configured on a second
16 computing device that is operatively connected to said first computing device, and
17 wherein said second GUI is displayed on substantially the full screen of said
18 display screen and includes at least one identifier that identifies that said second
19 GUI is not associated with said first computing device.

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21 **17.** The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein at
22 least one of said first and said second GUIs is a desktop GUI associated with an
23 operating system.

1 **18.** The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein at
2 least one of said first and said second GUIs is an application GUI associated with
3 an application program.

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5 **19.** The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein said
6 at least one identifier is selectively displayed for a defined period of time and then
7 no longer displayed until reactivated.

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9 **20.** The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein said
10 at least one identifier includes information identifying said second computing
11 device.

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13 **21.** The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein said
14 at least one identifier includes at least one user selectable feature that is
15 operatively configured to provide at least one user input to said second computing
16 device.

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18 **22.** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
19 instructions for performing acts comprising:

20 generating graphical user interface (GUI) data suitable for being displayed
21 on a display screen, the GUI data being associated with a program operatively
22 configured on a computing device that is configurable to be operatively coupled to
23 another computing device,
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1 wherein said another computing device is connected to said display screen
2 and generating said GUI data such that if displayed on said display screen said
3 GUI data uses substantially the full screen of said display screen, and

4 generating said GUI data to include data for displaying at least one
5 identifier that identifies that said GUI data is associated with said computing
6 device.

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8 **23.** The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein said
9 GUI data includes desktop GUI data associated with an operating system running
10 on said computing device.

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12 **24.** The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein said
13 GUI data includes application GUI data associated with an application program
14 running on said computing device.

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16 **25.** A system comprising:
17 a display screen;
18 a communication link;
19 a first computing device operatively coupled to said display screen and said
20 communication link, and configured to display a first graphical user interface
21 (GUI) on said display screen, the first GUI being associated with a program
22 running on said first computing device;

23 a second computing device operatively coupled to said communication link
24 and thusly said first computing device, said second computing device being
25 configured to display a second GUI on said display screen over said first GUI, the

1 second GUI being associated with a program operatively configured on said
2 second computing device, and wherein said second GUI is displayed on
3 substantially the full screen of said display screen and includes at least one
4 identifier that identifies that said second GUI is not associated with said first
5 computing device.

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7 **26.** The system as recited in Claim 25, wherein at least one of said first
8 and said second GUIs is a desktop GUI associated with an operating system.

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10 **27.** The system as recited in Claim 25, wherein at least one of said first
11 and said second GUIs is an application GUI associated with an application
12 program.

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14 **28.** The system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said second GUI is
15 displayed in full screen mode on said display screen, such that none of said first
16 GUI is visible to said user.

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18 **29.** The system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said at least one
19 identifier is selectively displayed for a defined period of time and then no longer
20 displayed until reactivated.

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22 **30.** The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein said at least one
23 identifier is reactivated after a defined period of time expires since said at least one
24 identifier was last displayed.

1 **31.** The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein said at least one
2 identifier is reactivated after the user causes a pointing device controlled cursor to
3 enter into a defined region of said second GUI.

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5 **32.** The system as recited in Claim 29, further comprising:
6 a pointing device operatively coupled to said first computing device; and
7 wherein said at least one identifier is reactivated after the user causes a
8 pointing device controlled cursor to enter into a defined region of said second GUI
9 and said cursor remains in said region for a definable period of time.

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11 **33.** The system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said at least one
12 identifier is selectively displayed based on at least one user keyboard input.

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14 **34.** The system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said at least one
15 identifier is selectively displayed by said second computing device.

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17 **35.** The system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said at least one
18 identifier includes information identifying said second computing device.

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20 **36.** The system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said at least one
21 identifier includes at least one user selectable feature that is operatively configured
22 to provide at least one user input to said second computing device.

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24 **37.** An apparatus comprising:
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1 a computing device capable of being operatively connected to at least one
2 other computing device through an interconnecting communication channel, said
3 computing device having logic configured to generate graphical user interface
4 (GUI) data suitable for display on a display screen coupled to said other
5 computing device, wherein if displayed on said display screen said GUI data is
6 configured to use substantially the full screen of said display screen, and wherein
7 said GUI data includes data for displaying at least one identifier that identifies that
8 said GUI data is associated with said computing device.

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10 **38.** The apparatus as recited in Claim 37, wherein said GUI data
11 includes desktop GUI data associated with operating system logic configured on
12 said computing device.

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14 **39.** The apparatus as recited in Claim 37, wherein said GUI data
15 includes application GUI data associated with application program logic
16 configured on said computing device.

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18 **40.** A method comprising:
19 displaying a first graphical user interface (GUI) on a display screen, the
20 first GUI being associated with a first program; and
21 displaying a second GUI on said display screen over said first GUI, the
22 second GUI being associated with a second program, and wherein said second
23 GUI is displayed on substantially the full screen of said display screen and
24 includes at least one identifier that identifies that said second GUI is not associated
25 with said first program.

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2 **41.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein at least one of said first
3 and said second GUIs is a desktop GUI associated with an operating system.
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5 **42.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein at least one of said first
6 and said second GUIs is an application GUI associated with an application
7 program.
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9 **43.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said second GUI is
10 displayed in full screen mode on said display screen, such that none of said first
11 GUI is visible to said user.
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13 **44.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said at least one
14 identifier is selectively displayed for a defined period of time and then no longer
15 displayed until reactivated.
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1 **45.** The method as recited in Claim 44, wherein said at least one
2 identifier is reactivated after a defined period of time expires since said at least one
3 identifier was last displayed.

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5 **46.** The method as recited in Claim 44, wherein said at least one
6 identifier is reactivated after the user causes a pointing device controlled cursor to
7 enter into a defined region of said second GUI.

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9 **47.** The method as recited in Claim 44, wherein said at least one
10 identifier is reactivated after the user causes a pointing device controlled cursor to
11 enter into a defined region of said second GUI and said cursor remains in said
12 region for a definable period of time.

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14 **48.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said at least one
15 identifier is selectively displayed based on at least one user keyboard input.

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17 **49.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said at least one
18 identifier includes information identifying said second program.

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20 **50.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said at least one
21 identifier includes at least one user selectable feature that is operatively configured
22 to provide at least one user input to said second program.

1 **51.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said first program and
2 said second program are operatively running on at least one processing unit within
3 a single computer.

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5 **52.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said first program and
6 said second program are operatively running on at processing units within
7 different computers.

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9 **53.** A computer readable medium having computer implementable
10 instructions for performing acts comprising:

11 displaying a first graphical user interface (GUI) on a display screen, the
12 first GUI being associated with a first program; and

13 displaying a second GUI on said display screen over said first GUI, the
14 second GUI being associated with a second program, and wherein said second
15 GUI is displayed on substantially the full screen of said display screen and
16 includes at least one identifier that identifies that said second GUI is not associated
17 with said first program.

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19 **54.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein at
20 least one of said first and said second GUIs is a desktop GUI associated with an
21 operating system.

1 **55.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein at
2 least one of said first and said second GUIs is an application GUI associated with
3 an application program.

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5 **56.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein said
6 second GUI is displayed in full screen mode on said display screen, such that none
7 of said first GUI is visible to said user.

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9 **57.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein said
10 at least one identifier is selectively displayed for a defined period of time and then
11 no longer displayed until reactivated.

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13 **58.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 57, wherein said
14 at least one identifier is reactivated after a defined period of time expires since said
15 at least one identifier was last displayed.

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17 **59.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 57, wherein said
18 at least one identifier is reactivated after the user causes a pointing device
19 controlled cursor to enter into a defined region of said second GUI.

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21 **60.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 57, wherein said
22 at least one identifier is reactivated after the user causes a pointing device
23 controlled cursor to enter into a defined region of said second GUI and said cursor
24 remains in said region for a definable period of time.

1 **61.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein said
2 at least one identifier is selectively displayed based on at least one user keyboard
3 input.

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5 **62.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein said
6 at least one identifier includes information identifying said second program.

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8 **63.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein said
9 at least one identifier includes at least one user selectable feature that is
10 operatively configured to provide at least one user input to said second program.

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12 **64.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein said
13 first program and said second program are operatively running on at least one
14 processing unit within a single computer.

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16 **65.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein said
17 first program and said second program are operatively running on at processing
18 units within different computers.